# CHAPTER 7
# AFTER THE FESTIVAL (PART 1)

SIGH

Sounds good

We'll be waiting in the hotel lobby at 7:30 on the 15th!

Can't wait to see you!

BANG BANG

TINK TINK

THE GION FESTIVAL IS COMING UP, HUH?

蔵

KURA

GOOD MORNING!

R-RING

ALL RIGHT!

SMILE, SMILE!

AH!

HEY THERE, AOI-CHAN!

Meant to come sooner, actually...

CAME BY TO SAY THANKS FOR BEFORE.

AKIHITO-SAN?!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

ITS EXQUISITE FLAVOR GOES WELL WITH COFFEE.

RYOKUJUAN SHIMIZU KONPEITO WAS A VERY THOUGHT-FUL GIFT.

I'LL MAKE YOUR CAFÉ AU LAIT NEXT, AOI-SAN.

PLEASE, SIT.

A YUKATA!

And it looks so good on him!

AOI-SAN?

!!!

Hm?

GASP

OH, THIS?

I, UH, WAS JUST SURPRISED TO SEE YOU IN A YUKATA.

THA-THUMP

THA-THUMP

THE OWNER ASKED ME TO WEAR ONE IN THE STORE BETWEEN THE 10TH AND THE END OF THE GION FESTIVAL.

HE SAYS IT'S PART OF THE KYOTO ENTREPRENEURIAL SPIRIT.

HE REQUESTED A YUKATA FROM MIEKO-SAN FOR YOU AS WELL, BUT THERE WAS A MIX-UP,

SO YOU'LL HAVE TO WAIT A BIT FOR IT.

I GET ONE, TOO?

OF COURSE.

YOU'RE JUST AS MUCH OF AN IMPORTANT WORKER HERE AS I AM.

HEY...

THERE'S SOMETHING I'VE BEEN WONDERING.

...!

NO.

ARE YOU TWO DATING?

AOI-SAN IS JUST A STUDENT WORKING HERE PART-TIME.

HUH?

DID I JUST...

STING

AFTER YOU LEFT, WE HAD A PRIVATE TALK WITH HER.

AKIHITO-SAN, WAS AYAKO-SAN ALL RIGHT AFTER WHAT HAPPENED?

YEAH...

SHE COLLAPSED INTO TEARS.

THE MINUTE MY BROTHER TOLD HER THE MEANING OF THE AQUAMARINE RING DAD GAVE HER...

I THINK SHE'D ALWAYS FELT GUILTY.

I THINK...

BUT IT WAS ALL...

MAYBE THEY ONLY ACTED THAT WAY BECAUSE OF THE SECRET.

OUR PARENTS WERE CRAZY CLOSE, YOU SEE.

THEY SEEMED LIKE THE PERFECT COUPLE.

MAYBE SO.

I ALSO BELIEVE THAT THE HAPPINESS YOU SAW THROUGH A CHILD'S EYES...

...COULD NOT HAVE BEEN ENTIRELY DISIN-GENUOUS.

HOLMES...

BUT THAT'S BETWEEN THEM. YOU NEEDN'T BEAR THE BURDEN ON THEIR BEHALF, AKIHITO-SAN.

BY THE WAY, AKIHITO-SAN, ARE YOU GOING TO THE GION FESTIVAL?

HMM? OH.

HOW OLD ARE YOU AGAIN?

TWENTY-TWO YEARS OLD.

BOY, I REALLY GOTTA GET IT TOGETHER...

I get that.

I GUESS THAT'S HOW IT MUST FEEL TO LOCALS.

I WAS GONNA HANG IN KYOTO FOR A WHILE, BUT FESTIVALS ARE ALWAYS SO CROWDED...

THAT'S SUCH A WASTE.

THE YAMABOKO HAVE SO MUCH CULTURAL AND AESTHETIC VALUE THAT THEY'RE KNOWN AS "MOVING MUSEUMS."

MOVING MUSEUMS?

THE GION FESTIVAL HAS OVER A THOUSAND YEAR HISTORY.

IT'S A CELEBRATION OF SENDING FLOATS KNOWN AS YAMABOKO THROUGH THE STREETS TO PURIFY THE CITY AND WARD OFF DISASTER.

FOR INSTANCE, THIS TAPESTRY FROM A FLOAT CALLED "KOIYAMA"...

koiya

IT DEPICTS A SCENE FROM HOMER'S *THE ILIAD* WITH KING PRIAM OF TROY AND HIS WIFE, HECUBA.

IT WAS MADE IN THE EARLY SEVENTEENTH CENTURY IN BRUSSELS, BRABANT.

IN OTHER WORDS, BELGIUM.

IT'S BEEN LOANED TO THE METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART ON REQUEST.

IT'S EXTREMELY RARE TO FIND ONE IN SUCH GOOD CONDITION NOWADAYS.

ITS MAEKAKE TAPESTRY IS A CARPET FROM THE MUGHAL COURT.

AND THIS ONE FROM "TSUKI-HOKO"...

WOW...

FWOOSH

YOU CAN SEE QUITE A FEW JAPANESE PIECES ON DISPLAY, WHICH...

OF COURSE, THEY HAVEN'T ALL BEEN BROUGHT IN FROM ABROAD.

THEN THERE'S THE MIOKURI TAPESTRY ON THE "NIWATORIHOKO" FLOAT AND THE DOKAKE TAPESTRY ON THE "TAISHIYAMA" FLOAT...

IS A ONE-OF-A-KIND PIECE BELIEVED TO HAVE COME TO US FROM THE MONGOL EMPIRE.

AND THE CARPET THAT DECO-RATES THE HEAD FLOAT, "NAGANATA-HOKO,"

AKIHITO-SAN?!

WHOOPS!

ANYWAY, IT'S TIME I GET TO PRACTICING MY OWN ART.

?

OKAY, I GET IT. IT'S A PRETTY AWESOME FESTIVAL.

I'LL GUESS I'LL COME SEE IT THIS YEAR.

YES, PLEASE DO.

WOW, I'D LOVE TO!

I'M GONNA BE IN A PLAY IN OSAKA.

I'VE GOT REHEAR-SALS.

YOU GUYS CAN COME WATCH IF YOU WANT.

CERTAINLY.

SEE YOU LATER, THEN!

AOI-SAN.

YES?

WHENEVER I'M WITH HIM, I ALWAYS SEEM TO FORGET THE BAD THINGS.

IT'S LIKE HE HAS THE POWER TO BRIGHTEN ANYONE'S DAY.

AKIHITO-SAN'S SUCH A NICE PERSON.

HAS SOMETHING HAPPENED?

YOU'VE SEEMED RATHER DOWN LATELY.

I'VE BEEN A BIT WORRIED.

THAT'S HOLMES-SAN FOR YOU...

YOU'VE COMPLETELY SEEN THROUGH ME.

I HEARD FROM MY OLD SAITAMA FRIENDS.

THEY'RE COMING TO KYOTO FOR A SCHOOL TRIP AND WANT TO MEET UP.

I HAD NO REASON NOT TO, SO I AGREED...

Can I [illegible] see you!

SQUEEZE

AND IF I DO...

I DON'T KNOW WHAT I'LL...

BUT I MIGHT... RUN INTO *THEM.*

HUH?

BUT THAT'S PERFECT, ISN'T IT?

THIS COULD BE YOUR CHANCE TO WORK THINGS OUT.

IT'S BEEN EATING AWAY AT YOU, HASN'T IT?

WHEN DO THEY WANT TO MEET?

IN TWO DAYS ON THE 15TH. YOI YOI YAMA*.

MAYBE I WILL.

YEAH... YOU'RE RIGHT.

R— RING

WELCOME!

*Yoi Yoi Yama: A festival held two days before the main festival

IT'S BEEN A WHILE... HANNIT, KIYOTAKA-KUN?

IZUMI?

WHAT A LOVELY SHOP.

I'VE BEEN MEANIN' TO VISIT.

I'M PLEASED TO SEE THAT YOU'RE WELL.

AW, YOU DON'T GOTTA BE SO FORMAL.

*WAIT, IS SHE...*

I HEAR YOU'RE GETTING MARRIED SOON.

CONGRATULATIONS.

YEAH...

*SHE'S HOLMES-SAN'S OLD GIRLFRIEND.*

*I THOUGHT SO.*

I'LL MAKE SOME COFFEE.

THERE'S SOMETHIN' I WAS HOPIN' YOU'D APPRAISE FOR ME.

APPRAISE?

IT WAS A GIFT. I WAS TOLD IT'S AN ANTIQUE PLATE,

BUT I DUNNO TOO MUCH ABOUT IT.

ALLOW ME.

IT'S A ROYAL COPENHAGEN.

ONE OF A SERIES THEY PRODUCED OVER SIXTY YEARS, DEPICTING SCENERY FROM ALL OVER EUROPE.

BUT THEY PRODUCE MANY PIECES LIKE THIS ONE THAT USE COLOR TO PAINT A VARIETY OF IMAGES.

AS FOR THE PRICE... THEY'RE NOT UNCOMMON, SO THIS WOULD FETCH BETWEEN 20 AND 30 THOUSAND YEN.

ROYAL COPENHAGEN WAS STRONGLY INFLUENCED BY JAPAN'S IMARI WARE.

AND THEIR CHRISTMAS PLATES, WHICH USE THAT ICONIC COBALT BLUE, ARE ESPECIALLY POPULAR, EVEN IN JAPAN.

SO IT'S A REAL COPENHAGEN?

I ALWAYS THINK OF 'EM AS BLUE...

I ENCOURAGE THAT.

IT'S AN AWFUL NICE PLATE. I'LL BE SURE TO TREASURE IT.

I SEE.

UM... ACTUALLY, KIYOTAKA-KUN...

KIYOTAKA-KUN, YOU'RE AMAZIN'.

THIS'S MY FIRST TIME SEEIN' YOU APPRAISE SOMETHIN'. IT'S SO COOL.

WHAT?

I SAID IT'S BEEN A WHILE, BUT...

THAT AIN'T QUITE THE TRUTH.

THE TRUTH IS...

I KEPT THINKIN'... I WANTED TO SEE YOU.

I'VE ALSO BEEN TO THE KYOTO U CAMPUS.

I'VE PASSED BY THE STORE COUNTLESS TIMES.

HE'S BEEN...

...CHEATIN' ON ME LEFT AND RIGHT.

I'M NOT SURE I OUGHTA GET MARRIED.

HE'S FUN TO BE AROUND.

AND WHEN I CATCH HIM IN THE ACT, HE ALWAYS SAYS HE'S SORRY. THAT I'M STILL HIS NUMBER ONE.

SO I END UP FORGIVIN' HIM EVERY TIME, BUT IT'S HARD...

AN' WHEN IT HAPPENS, I FIND MYSELF THINKIN' OF YOU.

YOU ALWAYS TREATED ME RIGHT.

BUT BACK THEN, I DIDN'T GET THAT...

IZUMI...

YOU DON'T HAVE TO SAY ANYTHIN'.

I KNOW I'M TALKIN' FOOLISH.

KIYOTAKA-KUN...

DO YOU STILL LIKE WAKA POETRY?

CLINK

I WANT YOU TO HAVE A LOOK AT THIS, TOO.

I MADE IT ON A MOUNTAIN IN SHIGA.

WAKA?

WELL, YES.

A MOUNTAIN IN SHIGA?

I'LL COME BACK TO GET IT IN TWO DAYS.

AOI-SAN.

SHE'S GONE NOW. YOU CAN BRING OUT THE COFFEE.

A... TEA BOWL?

YES.

WITH A MUGWORT PATTERN.

I CAN'T REALLY ASK LIKE THIS...

SO YOU LIKE WAKA POETRY, HOLMES-SAN?

WELL, YOU SEE...

IN OUR SECOND YEAR OF HIGH SCHOOL,

WE VISITED TOFUKUJI TEMPLE, FAMOUS FOR ITS AUTUMN COLORS, ON A SCHOOL TRIP.

"NOT EVEN THE GODS IN THEIR BOUNDLESS MULTITUDES HAVE SEEN SUCH A SIGHT..."

WASN'T THAT IN THE HYAKUNIN ISSHU?

HOW PRETTY!

IT'S LIKE STEPPIN' RIGHT INTO A WAKA POEM.

BUT WHAT WAS THE LAST VERSE AGAIN?

"AH, THE TATSUTA RIVER, CRIMSON-WASHED WITH AUTUMN LEAVES!"

RIGHT?

STANDING IN SUCH A BEAUTIFUL PLACE, HEARING HOLMES-SAN FINISH YOUR POEM...

WHO WOULDN'T FALL FOR HIM?

SHE SAID THAT THAT WAS WHEN SHE FIRST DEVELOPED FEELINGS FOR ME.

THAT IS WHY IZUMI THINKS OF ME AS A MAN WHO LOVES WAKA.

WELL...

VRRR-OOM

THAT'S RIGHT. I NEED TO DELIVER SOME DOCUMENTS TO THE ASSOCIATION.

AOI-SAN, COULD YOU WATCH THE STORE FOR A BIT?

OH, SURE.

"DO YOU STILL LIKE WAKA POETRY?"

I WONDER IF THE MEANING ...

...OF THIS TEA BOWL IS CONNECTED TO A POEM.

THIS IS IZUMI-SAN'S WORK?

IT WAS DEFINITELY MADE BY AN AMATEUR...

MOUNTAINS IN SHIGA...

MT. IBUKI, MT. KANAKU-SODAKE, MT. SHIRAKURA-DAKE...

"I MADE IT ON A MOUNTAIN IN SHIGA."

HMM, NOTHING'S CLICKING...

MAYBE IT'S NOT ABOUT THE LOCATION.

THE MUGWORT, THEN?

FLAP

LET'S SEE... "MENTIONED IN WAKA AS 'SASHIMO GRASS,'

IT APPEARS IN TWO POEMS OF THE HYAKUNIN ISSHU."

THE FIRST POEM IS...

THE HYAKUNIN ISSHU!

THIS MUST BE IT.

"LIKE LIFE-GIVING DEW TO THE PARCHED SASEMO GRASS WAS YOUR OATH TO ME..."

THAT DOESN'T SEEM RIGHT.

THE OTHER IS...

"I LOVE YOU SO MUCH, BUT I CANNOT TELL YOU. AND BECAUSE OF MY SILENCE, YOU MAY NOT BE AWARE OF MY PASSION FOR YOU, WHICH BURNS AS HIGH AS THE SASHIMI GRASS ON MT. IBUKI."

かくとだに
えやは伊吹の
さしも草
さらじな
知らじな

『あなた

"AH, TO SAY IT— NO; BUT SURELY I CANNOT HIDE THE FIRE THAT BLAZES..."

"...SO HIGH AND HOT, LIKE THE SASHIMO GRASS OF IBUKI."

MT. IBUKI IS IN SHIGA.

THIS IS IT.

AND THE MEANING OF THE POEM...

This is a confession.

...in love with Holmes-san.

Izumi-san is still...

Holmes-san probably saw through the meaning instantly.

MY CHEST... FEELS HEAVY...

WHAT'S GOING ON?

WHEN DO THEY WANT TO MEET?

IN TWO DAYS ON THE 15TH. YO! YO! YAMA.

*HOW WILL HOLMES-SAN RESPOND?*

I'LL COME BACK TO GET IT IN TWO DAYS.

I...

What should I do?

CHAPTER 7
END